

August 25, 1924

Leadbetter's Vancouver paper mill begins work

VANCOUVER — The first rolls of paper began rolling off the machines at the Columbia River Paper Mills today, bringing to fruition a dream that had its conception in the mind of F.W. Leadbetter, president of the company, nearly 20 years ago.

For nearly a score of years, the veteran paper manufacturer has envisioned the perfect paper mill, centrally located as to raw materials, labor supply and shipping facilities. "The new mill just completed is by far the most complete and up-to-date enterprise of its kind in existence," Leadbetter said.

Construction began Jan. 4, 1923, with the filing of articles of incorporation. At that time, the company was capitalized for \$1.5 million. A year later, this capitalization was increased to \$2 million.

A sawmill unit was the first part of the plant to be completed and began operation Oct. 23, 1923. The complex is located on the river just downstream from the Interstate Bridge.

Other officers of the new paper mill are W.B. DuBois, vice president; J.J. Donovan, secretary; Hamilton F. Corbett, treasurer; C.W. Ryan, assistant treasurer.

EPILOGUE — Columbia River Paper ran under its original name until the 1960s, when it was purchased by Boise Cascade. Today, the mill at 907 W. Seventh St. employs about 450 workers and produces more than 300 tons of business papers each day. Its payroll is about \$15 million per year and about \$30 million in capital improvements are being made during the 1988-89 biennium.